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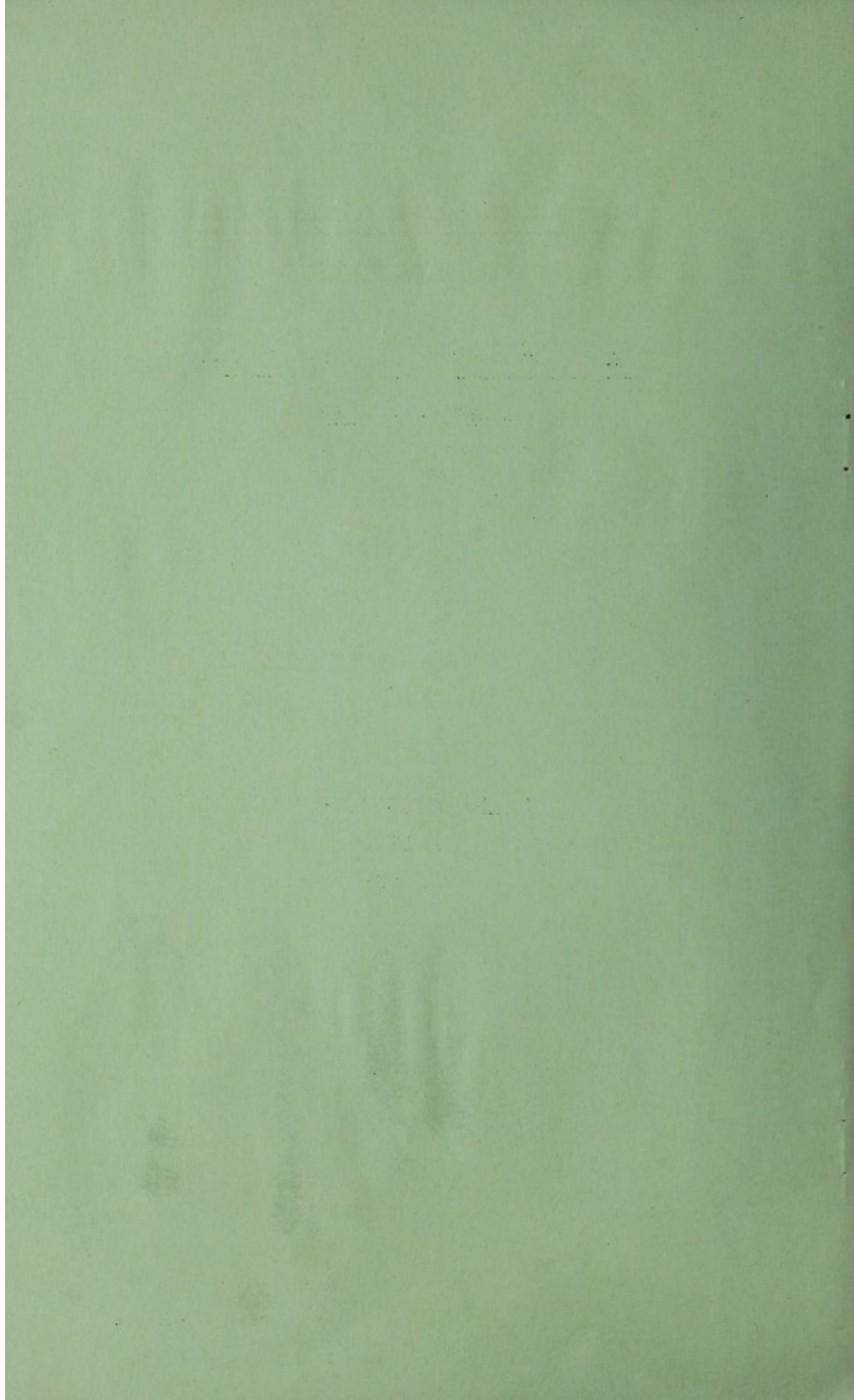
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

F O R

1 9 4 8.

Health Department,
Town Hall,
Bishop Auckland.



BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Callaghan and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report in respect of the year 1948.

Area and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The Registrar General estimates that the resident population at mid 1948 was 35,850, an increase of 1,160 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value is £144,454 and the product of a penny rate £529.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1948, according to the Council's rates records was 10,279.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following extracts from the district's vital statistics the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are calculated on the above mentioned estimated population.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate.	736	347	389
Illegitimate.	36	14	22
TOTAL.	772	361	411

The birth-rate (live) per 1,000 of the estimated population is 21.5. This is considerably lower than the birth rate for 1947 which at 25.6 was the highest for many years, but it is higher than the birth rate of England and Wales which in 1948 was 17.9 per 1,000 of the total population. The district's average birth rate for the years 1940-48 has been 19.8.

Still Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate.	24	18	6
Illegitimate.	1	0	1
TOTAL.	25	18	7

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	31.4
Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.69

This shows an increase over the previous year's figure when the still birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 0.46. The rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1948 was 0.42.

DEATHS.

The total deaths occurring among district residents during the year, when corrected for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths, was 461. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 12.8 as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 10.8.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 1948

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Callahan and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report in respect of the year 1948.

Area and Social Conditions

The area of the district is 2,335 acres. The Registrar General estimates that the resident population at mid 1948 was 35,680, an increase of 1,150 on the previous year's estimate.

The taxable value is £14,454 and the product of a penny rate £289.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1948, according to the Council's rates records was 10,279.

VITAL STATISTICS

In the following extracts from the district's vital statistics the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are calculated on the above mentioned estimated population.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	728	347	381
Illegitimate	38	14	24
TOTAL	766	361	405

The birth-rate (live) per 1,000 of the estimated population is 21.5. This is considerably lower than the birth rate for 1947 which at 22.6 was the highest for many years, but it is higher than the birth rate of England and Wales which in 1948 was 17.9 per 1,000 of the total population. The district's average birth rate for the years 1940-48 has been 19.8.

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	14	18	6
Illegitimate	1	0	1
TOTAL	15	18	7

Rate per 1,000 live and still births
Rate per 1,000 of estimated population

This shows an increase over the previous year's figures when the still birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 0.48. The rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1948 was 0.42.

DEATHS

The total deaths occurring among district residents during the year when corrected for over-census and inwardly transferable deaths, was 481. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 13.8 as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 10.8.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
(a) From puerperal sepsis.	Nil	-
(b) From other maternal causes.	1	1.38

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	50.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	53.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0.0

The district's average infant mortality rate during the nine years of the present decade has been 63.2. While the reduced rate to which I made reference in my report for 1947 has been maintained the local rate is still much higher than that of the country as a whole, viz 34.

The following table gives the number of deaths from various causes during the year.

Causes of Death.	M	F	Total.
Cancer.	29	31	60
Diabetes.	0	0	0
Cerebro-vascular lesions.	36	31	67
Heart Diseases.	83	73	156
Other circulatory diseases.	4	3	7
Bronchitis.	17	9	26
Pneumonia.	10	6	16
Other respiratory diseases.	7	3	10
Gastric or duodenal ulcer.	1	1	2
Appendicitis.	0	0	0
Diarrhoea.	3	1	4
Other digestive diseases.	2	11	13
Nephritis.	0	5	5
Premature Birth.	6	9	15
Congenital malformation or injury at birth.	1	8	9
Suicide.	0	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents.	3	0	3
Other violent causes.	4	4	8
Tuberculosis (all forms).	14	12	26
Infectious Diseases (including influenza).	0	2	2
Other causes than those specified.	18	10	28

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of, and deaths from the various infectious diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) which occurred among the civilian population during the year.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total No. of cases after corrected diagnosis.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.	--	--	--	--
Scarlet Fever.	91	90	73	--
Diphtheria.	7	5	7	--
Enteric Fever.	--	--	--	--
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	3	2	3	1
Pneumonia.	8	8	--	16
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	2	1	--
Measles.	284	283	1	--
Whooping Cough.	53	53	--	1
Erysipelas.	10	10	--	--
Dysentery.	--	--	--	--
Acute Poliomyelitis.	2	1	2	--
Acute Encephalitis.	--	--	--	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	--	--	--	--

Deaths from Respiratory Causes.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
(a) From respiratory causes. (b) From other maternal causes.	Nil 1	1.38

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births. 50.2
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 53.3
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 0.0

The district's average infant mortality rate during the nine years of the present decade has been 53.2. While the reduced rate to which I made reference in my report for 1927 has been maintained the local rate is still much higher than that of the country as a whole, viz 34.

The following table gives the number of deaths from various causes during the year.

Causes of Death.	M	F	Total.
Other causes than those specified.	18	10	28
Infectious Diseases (including influenza).	0	2	2
Tuberculosis (all forms).	14	12	26
Other violent causes.	4	4	8
Road Traffic Accidents.	2	0	2
Selfide.	0	1	1
Constitutional malformation or injury at birth.	1	0	1
Premature Birth.	0	0	0
Nephritis.	0	0	0
Other digestive diseases.	2	11	13
Dysentery.	3	1	4
Appendicitis.	0	0	0
Gastric or duodenal ulcer.	1	1	2
Other respiratory diseases.	7	3	10
Pneumonia.	10	0	10
Bronchitis.	17	0	17
Other circulatory diseases.	4	3	7
Heart Diseases.	23	73	96
Cerebro-vascular lesions.	28	31	59
Diabetes.	0	0	0
Cancer.	22	21	43

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of, and deaths from the various infectious diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) which occurred among the civilian population during the year.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total No. of cases after correction.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Opthalmia Neonatorum.	--	--	--	--
Acute Encephalitis.	--	--	--	--
Acute Poliomyelitis.	2	1	2	--
Dysentery.	--	--	--	--
Erysipelas.	10	10	--	--
Whooping Cough.	23	23	--	1
Measles.	221	223	1	--
Scarlatina Pyrexia.	2	2	1	--
Pneumonia.	8	8	--	18
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	3	3	3	1
Epidemic Fever.	--	--	--	--
Diphtheria.	7	5	7	--
Epidemic Typhus.	21	20	23	--
Gallbladder.	--	--	--	--

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows, in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from Tuberculosis occurring in the district in 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	2	1	4	1	-	1	1
5 -	1	2	3	4	-	-	-	-
15 -	9	12	2	-	1	2	-	-
25 -	2	6	-	1	3	7	-	-
35 -	4	1	-	1	4	1	1	-
45 -	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 -	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals								
1948.	25	24	6	10	11	11	2	1
1947.	13	27	7	14	11	12	3	3
1946.	34	15	19	15	11	11	1	1
1945.	24	20	20	7	15	9	5	6
1944.	18	20	11	12	7	10	2	3

Of the total deaths recorded from Tuberculosis three were in respect of persons who, prior to decease had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Under the terms of the National Health Service Act immunisation against Diphtheria became the entire responsibility of Health Authorities within the meaning of the Act.

During the first half of 1948, full courses of immunisation treatment were recorded in respect of 243 children, 229 of whom were under 5 years of age.

The district's immunisation figures are not available for the third quarter of 1948. According to the Quarterly Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, 199 full immunisation treatments were given to children in this Urban District during the last quarter of 1948.

Difficulty is at present being experienced in assessing the progress of the immunisation campaign owing to the fact that many general practitioners are with-holding their records from the County Authority pending an agreement by the Ministry of Health as to the rate of remuneration which, at the time of publication of this report, has not yet been decided. While one can appreciate the doctors' grievance, one cannot condone their present method of its ventilation; for by retaining their returns of work actually done they are availing themselves nothing, possibly further delaying their ultimate remuneration, and depriving responsible Health Authorities of a means of assessing the progress of what has been acknowledged one of the most beneficial schemes of modern preventive medicine. There is no reason to believe that general practitioners are failing to give immunisation treatment when requested to do so.

It is, however, gratifying to note that during 1948 there has been, as evidenced by the incomplete available statistics, and increased response on the part of our local parents to the offer of free immunisation treatment for their children.

The following table shows, in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the district in 1948.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	2	1	4	-	-	1	1
2 -	1	2	3	4	-	-	-	-
3 -	2	12	2	-	1	2	-	-
4 -	2	6	-	1	3	7	-	-
5 -	4	1	-	1	4	1	1	-
6 -	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
7 -	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
8 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	25	24	6	10	11	11	3	1
1948	12	27	7	14	11	12	3	3
1947	12	27	7	14	11	12	3	3
1946	24	15	19	15	11	11	1	1
1945	24	20	20	7	15	2	2	2
1944	18	20	11	12	7	10	2	2

Of the total deaths recorded from tuberculosis three were in respect of persons who, prior to disease had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Under the terms of the National Health Service Act immunisation against diphtheria became the active responsibility of Health Authorities within the meaning of the Act.

During the first half of 1948, full courses of immunisation treatment were recorded in respect of 243 children, 229 of whom were under 5 years of age.

The district's immunisation figures are not available for the third quarter of 1948. According to the Quarterly Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, 199 full immunisation treatments were given to children in this Urban District during the last quarter of 1948.

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It is, however, gratifying to note that during 1948 there has been, as evidenced by the incomplete available statistics, an increased response on the part of our local parents to the offer of free immunisation treatment for their children.

(b) Rodent Control.

The full time Rodent Operator employed by the Council dealt during the year with a total of 120 medium and minor infestations. Of these 26 infestations were on Council properties (refuse tips, sewage disposal works, etc.), 33 were on privately owned premises, and 61 were on blocks of dwelling house properties and adjoining lands which were serviced free of charge to householders in accordance with the scheme approved by the Ministry. The total estimated kill as assessed by the amount of poisoned bait taken was 5,550 rats; 1,792 on Council properties, 2,330 on premises serviced in block control, and 1,428 on privately owned premises. The amount recovered by the Council by charges to occupiers of the private premises was £56. 8.11.

The above mentioned figures exclude any estimate of rats killed by the two control operations conducted in Council sewers during the year.

(c) Food Inspection.

During the year the Council's Sanitary Inspectors examined a total of 17,588 carcasses at the Central Abattoir which serves this and a number of other districts in South West Durham. A total of 31 tons 7 cwt 3 stones 3 lbs. of carcase meat was condemned as unfit for food. It should be noted that this included many carcasses of ailing beasts which had been sent to the abattoir as "casualties". 14 tons 5 cwt 5 lbs of other foodstuffs plus 1,880 lots (packets, tins, jars, etc.,) were also condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year. All the above mentioned condemned food was voluntarily surrendered; in no case was seizure necessary nor was there any prosecution for exposure or selling of unsound food.

(d) Conversion to Water Carriage.

During the year under review 87 closets of the conservancy type were, by provisions of Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936, converted to water closets.

At the end of 1948 the various types of closets in the district were as follows:-

Water Closets (including those of schools, factories, shops, etc.,).	6,513
Ash Closets.	4,799
Ashpit Privies.	290

GENERAL HOUSING REPAIRS.

The following is the detail of general housing repairs done as a result of informal and formal notices during the year.

Public Health Acts and Housing Acts.	No. of informal notices.	No. of formal notices by order of the Council.	No. of nuisances abated and housing defects remedied.
Dwelling) Structural defects Houses) or Foul conditions	610	54	577
Dairies and Milkshops.	8	--	8
Cowsheds.	---	1	---
Bakehouses.	2	--	2
Ashpits and Privies.	112	--	96
Water Closets.	39	1	39
Deposits of Refuse.	11	--	9
Defective Drains.	153	2	149
Other Nuisances.	189	3	177

The full time Robert Operator employed by the Council dealt during the year with a total of 180 matters and minor infractions. Of these 88 infractions were on Council properties (refuse tips, sewage disposal works, etc.), 33 were on privately owned premises, and 61 were on blocks of dwelling house properties and adjoining lands which were serviced free of charge to householders in accordance with the scheme approved by the Ministry. The total estimated bill as assessed by the amount of police ed bills taken was £2,550; 1,725 on Council properties, £825 on premises serviced in block control, and £1,425 on privately owned premises. The amount recovered by the Council by charges to occupiers of the private premises was £25.8.11.

The above mentioned figures exclude any estimate of rats killed by the two control operations conducted in Council sewers during the year.

(c) Food Inspection.

During the year the Council's Sanitary Inspectors examined a total of 17,868 carcasses at the Central Abattoir which serves this and a number of other districts in South West Durham. A total of 31 tons 7 cwt 3 stone 5 lbs. of carcass meat was condemned as unfit for food. It should be noted that this included many carcasses of killing beasts which had been sent to the abattoir as "casualties". 14 tons 5 cwt 5 lbs of other foodstuffs plus 1,680 lots (packets, tins, jars, etc.) were also condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year. All the above mentioned condemned food was voluntarily surrendered; in no case was seizure necessary nor was there any prosecution for exposure or selling of unsound food.

(d) Conversion to Water Closets.

During the year under review 87 closets of the conservancy type were by provisions of Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936, converted to water closets.

At the end of 1948 the various types of closets in the district were as follows:-

Water Closets (including those of schools, factories, shops, etc.),	6,813
Ash closets,	4,799
Asphic privies,	290

GENERAL HOUSING REPAIRS.

The following is the detail of general housing repairs done as a result of informal and formal notices during the year.

Public Health Acts and Housing Acts.	No. of informal notices.	No. of formal notices by order of the Council.	No. of notices issued and housing defects remedied.
Dwelling (Structural) defects	418	54	577
Houses (or part) condemned	8	—	8
Drains and Mischief	—	1	—
Gas	2	—	2
Asphic and Privies	118	—	98
Water Closets	39	1	39
Demolition of Refuse	11	—	9
Detritus Drains	123	2	143
Other Notices	189	3	177

NEW HOUSES.

During the year 156 houses were built in the area and occupied; of these 130 were built by the Council and 26 by private enterprise.

IRREPAIRABLE HOUSES.

A feature of the district's housing which warrants the Council's grave concern is the number of irreparable insanitary dwellings existing in the area.

Of a total of 139 houses in 12 Clearance Areas, in respect of which confirmed Clearance Orders were published by the Ministry of Health in 1938, 105 houses still remained occupied at the end of 1948.

Since, owing to the fact that service by the Council of notices under the Housing Acts to enforce repairs and improvements in such houses is precluded, most of the dwellings are in worse state than they were ten years ago when the Clearance Orders were made. It is to be hoped that an early solution will be found towards rehousing the unfortunate occupiers who, during all those years, have been hoping in vain for better housing.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

As local licensing officer on behalf of the Ministry of Works in respect of repairs and alterations to properties, your Medical Officer issued 419 licences during the year. Of these 294 were in respect of dwelling houses, involving an expenditure of £20,898, and 125 were in respect of properties other than dwellings, involving a cost of £6,145.

These figures do not include licences issued by your Surveyor in respect of erection of new buildings.

I append a series of tables showing comparisons in vital statistics and incidence of the various infectious diseases during 1948 and the previous eight years. Apart from the continued high incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in young females, the details of the forgoing report may be taken as indicative of a satisfactory general state of health of the community as a whole.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Callaghan and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

H.G. DONALD.

Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 188 houses were built in the area and occupied; of these 130 were built by the Council and 58 by private enterprise.

IRREPARABLE HOUSES.

A feature of the district's housing which warrants the Council's grave concern is the number of irreparable insanitary dwellings existing in the area.

Of a total of 159 houses in 15 Clearance Areas, in respect of which confirmed Clearance Orders were published by the Ministry of Health in 1938, 105 houses still remained occupied at the end of 1945.

Since, owing to the fact that services by the Council or notices under the Housing Acts to enforce repairs and improvements in such houses is prohibited, most of the dwellings are in worse state than they were ten years ago when the Clearance Orders were made. It is to be hoped that an early solution will be found towards rehousing the unfortunate occupants who, during all those years, have been hoping in vain for better housing.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

As local licensing officer on behalf of the Ministry of Works in respect of repairs and alterations to properties, your Medical Officer issued 419 licences during the year. Of these 294 were in respect of dwelling houses, involving an expenditure of £20,898, and 125 were in respect of properties other than dwellings, involving a cost of £5,145.

These figures do not include licences issued by your Surveyor in respect of erection of new buildings.

I append a series of tables showing comparisons in vital statistics and incidence of the various infectious diseases during 1948 and the previous eight years. Apart from the continued high incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in young females, the details of the foregoing report may be taken as indicative of a satisfactory general state of health of the community as a whole.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Callaghan and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

H.G. DOWD.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX. - Comparisons in Vital Statistics etc., during the years 1940 - 1948.

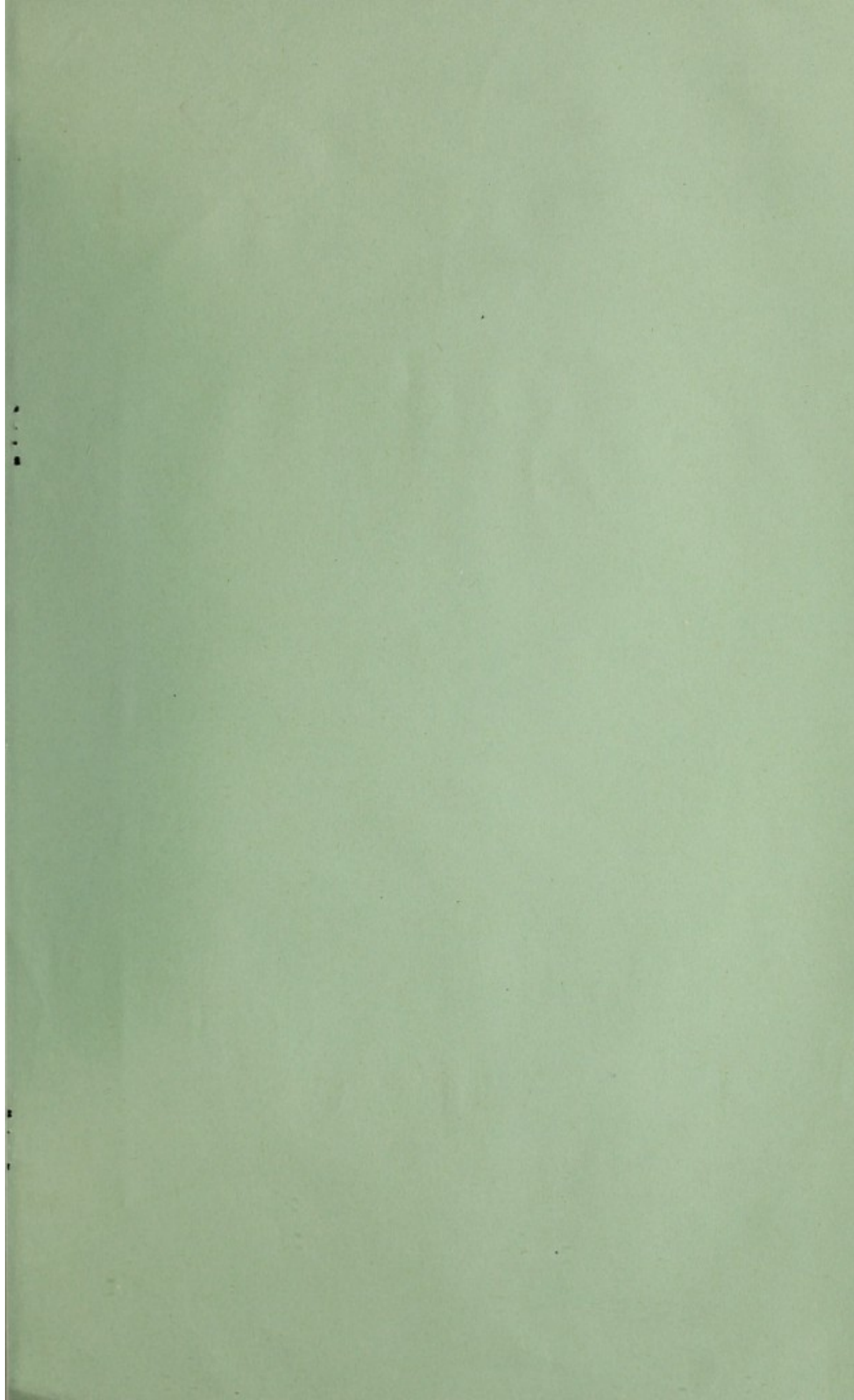
VITAL STATISTICS.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Birth Rate.	17.2	17.2	16.2	18.8	20.5	20.3	22.6	25.6	21.5
Death Rate.	15.1	12.7	12.7	14.5	13.9	14.4	13.5	14.7	12.8
Infant Mortality Rate.	83.0	63.3	65.3	81.6	62.9	59.1	54.2	49.1	50.5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	10	-	2	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	22	4	8	1	9	-	3	-	4	1	1	-	2	-	3	1	3	1
Diphtheria.	82	2	119	2	86	1	88	1	29	2	37	1	12	-	3	-	7	-
Dysentery.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Enteric Fever.	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	13	-	7	-	10	-	10	-	10	-	10	-	13	-	8	-	10	-
Measles.	245	2	83	-	220	-	962	1	22	3	614	-	54	-	289	-	284	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	6	-	3	-	2	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	35	17	24	10	39	20	32	18	24	16	13	16	19	14	11	25	8	16
Puerperal Pyrexia.	11	3	2	1	8	-	3	-	2	2	3	1	4	-	1	-	2	-
Scarlet Fever.	53	-	99	-	80	-	109	-	75	-	53	-	41	1	68	-	91	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	16	1	217	1	70	-	124	1	19	2	124	1	113	-	120	1	53	1
TOTALS.	478	29	571	15	525	21	1333	24	188	27	858	20	261	15	517	28	460	18

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES NOTIFIED.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Pulmonary Cases.	26	33	39	32	38	44	49	40	49
Non Pulmonary Cases.	19	17	17	28	23	27	34	21	16



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